

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for real time maintenance of database contents, in particular of files of a relational database, in particular DB2, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a ~~the~~ status of the contents of the database in real time using a database-integrated status monitor;

analyzing ~~the~~ results of the status determination;

comparing the analyzed results with comparison data; and

activating ~~the~~ maintenance functions directly following a positive compare result.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing the analyzed results comprises comparing the analyzed results with status threshold values, wherein said status threshold values represent data indicating an execution of the maintenance functions for the respective database contents.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of adjusting said status threshold values for different database content, groups of database content or different maintenance functions, respectively.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of setting at least one rigid status threshold value; setting at least one soft status threshold value; activating the maintenance function when the soft status threshold value is reached and further criteria apply; and activating the maintenance function immediately when the rigid status threshold value is reached.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the database contents are in a system and further comprising the step of defining restrictions related to the system, time, data ~~and/or~~ application for the execution of maintenance functions in which an immediate execution of a maintenance function is suppressed at least temporarily,
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the real time activation of the maintenance functions causes direct execution, transfer to a job scheduler, or a call of database utilities.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the executed maintenance functions are logged and a maintenance log is produced.

8. (previously presented) A device, set up to execute a method according to claim 1, said device comprising:
- a database unit in which the database is stored,
  - said database unit comprising maintenance means for executing maintenance functions, and
  - monitoring means for monitoring and reading out data indicative of the determined status of the contents of the database stored in said database unit,
  - a monitoring unit for monitoring said output data,
  - wherein said monitoring unit comprises means for analyzing said data and for comparing said data with comparison data, and
  - output means for directly outputting instruction for the activation of said maintenance means for executing a maintenance utility.
9. (previously presented) A computer program with an implementation of a method of claim 1 for a computer.
10. (previously presented) A computer program product with a computer program of claim 9 or with instructions for executing a method of claim 1.
11. (New) A method for real time maintenance of database contents, in particular of files of a relational database, in particular DB2, the method comprising the steps of:
- determining a status of the contents of the database in real time using a database-integrated status monitor;
  - analyzing results of the status determination;
  - adjusting status threshold values for different database content, groups of database content or different maintenance functions respectively;
  - comparing the analyzed results with said status threshold values; and
  - activating maintenance functions directly following a positive compare result.

12. (New) A method for real time maintenance of database contents, in particular of files of a relational database, in particular DB2, the method comprising steps of:

determining a status of the contents of the database in real time using a database-integrated status monitor;

analyzing results of the status determination;

setting at least one rigid status threshold value;

setting at least one soft status threshold value;

activating a maintenance function when the soft status threshold value is reached and further criteria apply; and

activating the maintenance function immediately when the rigid status threshold value is reached.

13. (New) A method for real time maintenance of database contents of files of relational database DB2, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a status of the contents of the database in real time using database-integrated status monitor real time statistics;

analyzing results of the status determination;

comparing the analyzed results with comparison data; and

activating at least one of the maintenance functions COPY, REORG or RUNSTATS directly following a positive compare result.